

EAP 223 Academic Reading – Outside Reader: *Things Fall Apart*
PREREADING STUDY GUIDE – Chapters 5-7

Study Questions for Chapters 5-7 Use these questions to guide you through your reading of chapters 5-7.
Document your answers on this sheet to help you study for the quiz on chapters 5-7.

1. Describe the Feast of the New Yam.

The Feast of the New Yam was held yearly before the harvest. It honored the earth goddess, Ani, and the ancestral spirits of the clan. New yams were offered to these powers. The old yams of the previous year were disposed of. All cooking and serving utensils were washed. Yam foo-foo and vegetable soup were the main ceremonial dishes.

2. Who was Okonkwo's favorite child, and what did he often say about the child?

His favorite child was Ezinma, daughter of Ekwefi. He often said it was a shame she wasn't a boy.

3. What unacceptable thing did Okonkwo do just before the Feast of the New Yam?

He beat his second wife, Ekwefi, then fired his gun at her.

4. Who was Chielo, and why was she important?

She was the priestess of Agbala, the Oracle of the Hills and the Caves.

5. What sport did the villagers enjoy watching during their feasting?

They enjoyed watching the young men of the village wrestle.

6. What influence did Ikemefuna have on Nwoye?

Ikemefuna acted as an elder brother. He made Nwoye feel grown up. Nwoye began acting more like a man.

7. How did Okonkwo feel about Ikemefuna's influence on Nwoye?

He was inwardly pleased, although he would not show it. He did, however, invite the boys to sit with him and told them stories of the land.

8. How did the villagers feel about the coming of the locusts, and what did they do about it?

They were delighted to have the locusts. They caught as many as possible, roasted them, and ate them as a delicacy.

9. What did the village decide to do with Ikemefuna?

The oracle decided that the villagers should kill him.

10. Who struck the last blow to Ikemefuna, and why?

Okonkwo did, because he was afraid of being thought weak.

Vocabulary for Chapters 5-7

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues.

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Use any clues you can find in the sentence, combined with your prior knowledge, to understand the italicized words.

1. The new year must begin with tasty, fresh yams and not the shriveled and *fibrous* crop of the previous year.
2. All cooking pots, *calabashes*, and wooden bowls were thoroughly washed, especially the wooden mortar in which yam was pounded.
3. The drums rose to a *frenzy*.
4. Old men nodded to the beat of the drums and remembered the days when they wrestled to its *intoxicating* rhythm.
5. Within a short time the two *bouts* were over.
6. Nwoye would *feign* annoyance and grumble aloud about women and their troubles.
7. And when he did this he saw that his father was pleased, and no longer *rebuked* him.
8. They went back to their caves in a distant land, where they were guarded by a race of *stunted* men.
9. They were the *harbingers* sent to survey the land.
10. Okonkwo sat in his obi crunching happily with Ikemefuna and Nwoye, and drinking palm-wine *copiously*....

Part II: Determining the Meaning Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

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| _E_ 1. fibrous | A. forerunners |
| _J_ 2. calabashes | B. criticized; reprimanded |
| _D_ 3. frenzy | C. contests; matches |
| _I_ 4. intoxicating | D. violent mental agitation; wild excitement |
| _C_ 5. bouts | E. threadlike |
| _H_ 6. feign | F. abundantly |
| _B_ 7. rebuked | G. stopped from growing |
| _G_ 8. stunted | H. pretend; represent falsely |
| _A_ 9. harbingers | I. stimulating or exciting |
| _F_ 10. copiously | J. containers made from dried gourds |